

WE CLAIM:

1. A ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising:
a capillary having a pair of opposing ends, an outer surface extending between the opposing ends and a hole extending between the opposing ends for insertion of an optical fiber strand therein;
a flange molded onto the capillary outer surface intermediate the capillary opposing ends such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not covered by the molded flange.

2. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange is molded from a plastic material.

3. The ferrule of claim 1, further comprising a recess portion and a complementary projecting portion extending into the recess portion, the recess portion and projecting portion being formed at an interface between the capillary outer surface and the flange.

4. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed in the capillary outer surface and the projecting portion is formed integral with the flange.

5. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed integral with the flange and the projecting portion is formed in the capillary outer surface.

6. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange has a cylindrical outer surface comprising a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion.

7. A method for manufacturing a ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising the step of molding a flange onto an outer surface of a capillary intermediate opposing ends of the capillary such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not covered by the molded flange.

8. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

forming a recess portion in the outer surface of the capillary prior to molding; and

forming, integral with the flange, a complementary projecting portion that extends intimately into the recess portion of the capillary outer surface during molding of the flange.

9. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

forming a projecting portion in the outer surface of the capillary; and filling a space surrounding the projecting portion with a molding material during molding.